



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, June 17, 2022, at 9:00 am

BOCC Conference Room, Room 232, 128 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901 or Zoom

6/17/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Amanda McKinney, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Ron Anderson, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, County Coroner Jim Curtice, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Troy Havens (Water Resources), Joel Freudenthal (Water Resources), and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION (15 Minutes)

The Board met in executive session to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Board returned to the main work session at 9:15 a.m.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Authorize Corporate Counsel to Sign Letter to Insurance Company as Discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Anderson SECOND.

Motion Passes Unanimously.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay presented a request from District Court to post internally for a new Administrative Supervisor (C44) position and a Program Analyst (C42) position, as part of their managerial reorganization. District Court would like to create opportunities for leadership growth and promotion internally, and has reason to believe there will be several qualified internal applicants. The cost difference would be covered by deleting the old positions of whichever two applicants are selected for the new positions, plus an estimated \$10,000 - \$12,000 from District Court's budget.

Jacqui also presented three requests from the Sheriff's Office. The first was for a new Program Specialist (B22) position, which would be funded out of general fund. The Commissioners gave their assent to this request. The other requests were for out-of-class funding through the end of 2021 for two positions: one person serving as a lead, and another who had been serving as a senior accountant until that position was filled, but who they'd like to eventually reclass after the pay study is complete. The commissioners gave their assent to both out-of-class requests.

Jacqui asked the Board for permission to delete the old C41 position that was open in Facilities, since a new C42 position was added. The Commissioners agreed. Finally, Jacqui invited County Coroner Jim Curtice to share an update on the position he had requested changes to recently. Instead of making the current clerical position a full-time C43 position, he was willing to compromise to a part-time C41 position. Jacqui added that it would still become an analyst position, but without as much of a strain on the budget. The position would be covered by the general fund for 2023 and beyond. The Commissioners shared concerns that due to the increased volume of work at the Coroner's Office, a full-time position would quickly become necessary. They agreed to the compromise for this year, but stipulated the need to reassess next year with Jacqui Lindsay and Craig Warner.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES (45 Minutes)

1. FEMA's Community Assistance Visit (CAV) Report: Troy Havens shared that after this audit on the county's floodplain ordinance, FEMA requested additional information regarding 9 individual items. The County was given a 90-day window to comment; 30 days have passed, and so far, the County is on track to meet its deadline. 3 items have been completed, 3 projects are halfway complete, and the work will begin on the final 3 next week. Water Resources has been working with Ecology's floodplain management specialist.
2. Lower Yakima Valley GWMA Letter: Lisa Freund shared that of the original 64 recommended actions assigned to the appropriate agencies in 2018 when the Groundwater Management Plan was adopted, Yakima County was assigned to implement 12. In the interest of further implementing the GWMA requirement to encourage Lower Valley Yakima County communities to retire ROSS and LOSS (onsite septic) and extend their water and sewer services, Lisa proposed sending a letter to the mayors of Grandview, Sunnyside, Mabton, Zillah, and Granger. The letter would highlight multiple funding opportunities, including ARPA funding, that could ease the financial burden of this type of expansion. Additionally, the letter would highlight the Growth Management Act (GMA). Next year, as Yakima County begins its UGA update, the GMA requires that each jurisdiction has an updated capital facilities plan. The County could reach out to all local jurisdictions (not just the Lower Valley) with the added expectation that this capital facilities plan addresses existing or emergent needs, before considering extending a UGA. While the letter was originally intended to come from Commissioner Linde (because of his being on the GWMA committee), the Commissioners decided that they would like to send it out together as a Board.
3. Request from the EPA: Lisa reminded the Board that several months ago, the Friends of Toppenish Creek petitioned the EPA for emergency action under the Safe Drinking Water Act to address nitrate contamination levels in the Lower Yakima Valley. The EPA sent a out a letter to a variety of agencies, including Yakima County, about what efforts were being on this front. Lisa plans to present a response letter to the Board next week, and will share the draft with other partner agencies for additional feedback. She clarified that in addition to outlining efforts such as well sampling and testing, the letter will address the substantial amount of community outreach that has brought awareness and education to the public on the issue of nitrates in groundwater. This has led to much more community support and participation in addressing the problem.
4. Integrated Plan Update: Joel Freudenthal updated the Board that Department of Ecology notified Water Resources that the Eaton family has negotiations for the purchase of the Wymer Reservoir cease. Thus, one of the two major proposals for water storage in the integrated plan is now off the table indefinitely. Joel suggested the need to discuss concrete steps for storage and storage proposals going forward at the next Executive and Implementation Committee meetings. The Commissioners expressed their disappointment: other options for water storage are not as efficient, and our reserves have not adequately grown with our population. Furthermore, continued and expanded irrigation for our agricultural industry is vital to feeding the state, the nation, and the world.
5. Cleanup of Illegal Encampments: Lisa finished by reporting that the media is starting to raise public awareness about the harmful effects of illegal encampments on the environment and public health and safety. Floodwaters have been washing up all kinds of debris from such encampments, and Lisa confirmed Public Services will continue to highlight the County's efforts to address the illegal encampment issue once cleanup resumes with drier conditions in July.

6. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.

Resolution 164-2022 (Emergency Medical Services) and Resolution 166-2022 (County Roads) were moved to Regular Agenda so that both departments could present at the meeting. Julie was directed to reach out to the appropriate parties.

Agreement 175-2022 and Agreement 176-2022 (both Department of Corrections) were tabled. DOC Director Jeremy Welch was asked to join the work session to answer questions regarding these agreements (with Walla Walla County and Kootenai County) about liability and inmate selection. Jeremy was directed to work with Corporate Counsel on updated language for these contracts to limit Yakima County's liability and to ensure that our facility would only accept the least resource-dependent inmates from other counties. Jeremy noted that Walla Walla County's request for the housing of inmates is only in case of emergency, whereas Kootenai County's request is more imminent due to severe staffing shortages.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Board agreed to discuss calendar appointments next week.

Julie Lawrence shared a draft of ARPA feedback survey questions, and the Board directed her to add some additional options on some of the questions.

Commissioner McKinney requested that the Commissioners each contact Julie by Tuesday with their suggestions for the ARPA screening committee.

Commissioner Linde asked Julie to reach out to the four Health Board candidates to set up a time for them to interview in person or on Zoom/Teams with the Commissioners. Don Anderson said he was waiting for direction from Joe Brusic on when the BOCC can appoint the new members. The Board also discussed the ongoing need for the Tribe's appointment to the Health Board.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

All work sessions are recorded and will be available to view on the BOCC website at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/AgendaCenter/Board-of-Commissioners-2>.

APPROVED DATE

DATE/Minutes